

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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TAGS: OEXC VE

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM: LABOR NOMINATIONS

REF: STATE 168351

1. THIS EMBASSY BELIEVES THE US INTEREST WOULD BE WELL SERVED IF CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV) PRESIDENT JOSE VARGAS AND CTV SECRETARY OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MANUEL PENALVER WERE INVITED TO ATTEND THE AFL-CIO CONVENTION IN SAN FRANCISCO AS PROPOSED REF. BOTH VARGAS AND PENALVER TENTATIVELY PLAN TO ATTEND THE ICFTU MEETING IN MEXICO CITY IN OCT. PENALVER'S IMPORTANCE HAS RECENTLY BEEN ENHANCED BY HIS ELECTION TO THE POWERFUL POSITION OF LABOR SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNING DEMOCRATIC ACTION (AD) PARTY. VARGAS RECEIVED A PARTIAL IV GRANT IN FY 1966. PENALVER RECEIVED A 45-DAY IV GRANT IN FY 1963. CLEARANCES RECEIVED.

2. GIVEN THE STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE CTV AND THE FREQUENT SELFT-FINANCED INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OF ITS TOP LEADERSHIP, THIS EMBASSY QUESTIONS THE USE OF POST FUNDS TO FIANANCE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BY THE TOP ECHELON OF THE VENEZUELAN LABOR MOVEMENT. THE EMBASSY IS IN THE FINAL PLANNING STAGES OF A 30-DAY IV GROUP VISIT FOR FOUR YOUNG MIDDLE-LEVEL TRADE UNIONISTS FOR LATE OCT AND NOV 1975. WE ARE RELUCTANT TO CURTAIL OUR CPP-PLANNED PROGRAM TO FINANCE TRAVEL BY THE CTV'S TOP LEADERSHIP WHICH VISITS THE US SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF BUSINESS. WE FEEL THAT IT WOULD NOT BE INAPPROPRIATE TO FINANCE EXPENSES INCURRED BY PENALVER AND VARGAS WITHIN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US SINCE THE CTV NORMALLY PAYS THESE EXPENSES FOR AFL-CIO

LEADERS INVITED BY THE CTV TO VISIT VENEZUELA. WE RECOMMEND
THAT REGIONAL FUNDS BE USED TO COVER EXPENSES WITHIN THE US SO
THAT WE CAN MAINTAIN OUR PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE-LEVEL LEADERS AT
ITS PLANNED LEVEL.
SHLAUDEMAM

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